

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAO PA 00724 01 OF 02 111306Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /044 W
-----074216 111324Z /53
R 102010Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8351
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAO PAULO 0724

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BR
SUBJ: LAUDO NATEL APPARENTLY CHOSEN GOVERNOR OF SAO PAULO

REF: SAO PAULO 0358

1. SUMMARY: EVIDENCE IS MOUNTING THAT GEN. FIGUEIREDO HAS CHOSEN FORMER GOVERNOR LAUDO NATEL TO SUCCEED PAULO EGYDIO AS GOVERNOR OF SAO PAULO. NATEL IS WELL KNOWN TO HAVE A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FIGUEIREDO. PAULO EGYDIO, ON RETURNING MARCH 7 FROM A MEETING WITH FIGUEIREDO TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE MADE IN BRASILIA, A TURNABOUT FROM THE BRAVADO HE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXHIBITED ABOUT CONTROLLING THE STATE SUCCESSION. VARIOUS SAO PAULO POLITICIANS HAVE TOLD CONGEN OFFS THAT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE IN FAVOR OF NATEL AND PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES HAVE ALSO AFFIRMED IT. EVEN THOUGH THE DECISION APPARENTLY HAS BEEN TAKEN, SPECULATION ON THE CHOICE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND EVEN INCREASE UPON PRESIDENT GEISEL'S RETURN FROM GERMANY, SINCE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED ONLY AFTER THE APRIL 8-9 ARENA CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. SAO PAULO GOVERNOR PAULO EGYDIO DINED WITH GEN. FIGUEIREDO ON MARCH 6. IN THE WEEKS BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH FIGUEIREDO, EGYDIO HAD SAID THAT SAO PAULO POLITICIANS, WITH HIM IN THE FORE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAO PA 00724 01 OF 02 111306Z

FRONT, WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE SELECTION OF THE NEXT GOVERNOR. EGYDIO HAD ORGANIZED A FORMAL PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP BY MEMBERS OF THE STATE SECRETARIAT AND FOUR OF THE LEADING CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR: FORMER AMBASSADOR AND FINANCE MINISTER DELFIM NETO, INTERIOR SECRETARY RAFAEL BALDACCI, SAO PAULO MAYOR OLAVO SETUBAL, AND FINANCE SECRETARY MURILO MACEDO. AT ONE POINT, EGYDIO EUPHORICALLY STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT EVEN

INCLUDE LAUDO NATEL'S NAME IN THE LIST HE WOULD PRESENT IN BRASILIA.

3. UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE MEETING WITH FIGUEIREDO, EGYDIO TOLD THE PRESS THAT NO DECISION ON THE GOVERNORSHIP HAD BEEN TAKEN; THAT HE HAD PRESENTED NINE NAMES TO FIGUEIREDO, INCLUDING NATEL'S, BECAUSE THEY WERE THE PERSONS WHO RECEIVED MOST SUPPORT IN HIS CONSULTATION OF THE ARENA PARTY. HE SAID THAT THE SELECTION HAD ENTERED ITS "REVOLUTIONARY PHASE" AND THE FINAL DECISION WOULD BE MADE IN BRASILIA. EGYDIO SAID HE WAS OPEN TO WORKING OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH LAUDO NATEL. NATEL LOFTILY COMMENTED THAT EGYDIO'S VISIT TO FIGUEIREDO NEITHER DECREASED NOR INCREASED HIS CHANCES.

4. INTERIOR SECRETARY AND CANDIDATE RAFAEL BALDACCI TOLD CONGEN OFFICER ON MARCH 6 THAT HE HAD HAD DINNER WITH FIGUEIREDO THE PREVIOUS WEDNESDAY AND HAD COME AWAY FROM THE MEETING ENCOURAGED ABOUT HIS CHANCES. HOWEVER, BALDACCI SAID THAT FIGUEIREDO HAD QUESTIONED HIM HARD ABOUT WHAT OTHER POSITIONS HE MIGHT ACCEPT SHOULD HE NOT BE SELECTED GOVERNOR. BALDACCI SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT REFUSE TO CONSIDER OTHER POSITIONS, BUT TOLD FIGUEIREDO HE WANTED A YES-OR-NO DECISION ON THE GOVERNORSHIP FIRST. BALDACCI STATED THAT GOLBERY (WHO IS BALDACCI'S ANGEL) HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE DECISIONS ON THE GOVERNORSHIPS SHOULD ALL BE TAKEN BEFORE THE END OF MARCH, IN ORDER TO GIVE TIME FOR THE NEW GOVERNORS TO GET THEIR TEAMS TOGETHER. ACCORDING TO THE ELECTORAL LAW, MODIFIED LAST APRIL, CANDIDATES FOR MANY POSITIONS MUST VACATE CURRENT POSITIONS IN STATE GOVERNMENTS AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAO PA 00724 01 OF 02 111306Z

IN STATE ENTERPRISES BY MAY 15. THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SELECTION, SAID BALDACCI, WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE ARENA PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION, APRIL 8-0, IN ORDER TO AVOID A PROTEST VOTE AGAINST FIGUEIREDO ON THE SECRET BALLOT. IN COMMENTING ON NATEL, BALDACCI SAID THAT HE DID HAVE SUPPORT IN THE INTERIOR, BUT LITTLE IN THE CITY OF SAO PAULO, AND HARDLY ANY AMONG THE ARENA LEADERS IN THE STATE.

5. BALDACCI APPEARS TO BE THE STRONGEST HOLDOUT AMONG THE CANDIDATES. DELFIM NETO HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED FROM PUBLIC VIEW. LABOR SECRETARY (AND CANDIDATE) JORGE MALULY TOLD CONGEN OFFS MARCH 9 THAT "PAULO EGYDIO SWORE THAT FIGUEIREDO DID NOT MAKE A DECISION ON SAO PAULO, BUT A FRIEND IN FIGUEIREDO'S OFFICE TOLD ME THAT THE GOVERNOR WAS TOLD THAT NATEL HAS BEEN CHOSEN." MALULY, ALONG WITH OLAVO SETUBAL AND MURILO MACEDO, HAD REPORTEDLY VISITED NATEL TO OFFER CONGRATULATIONS AND BEGIN DISCUSSING TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS. MEANWHILE, IBOPE, A BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION POLLING ORGANIZATION, PUBLISHED THE RESULTS OF A POLL ON THE GUBERNATORIAL RACE IN SAO PAULO. LAUDO NATEL RECEIVED OVER 50 PERCENT SUPPORT IN MOST OF THE RESPONSES.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAO PA 00724 02 OF 02 111152Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /044 W
-----073484 111324Z /53

R 102010Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8352
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAO PAULO 0724

6. THE PRESS IN SAO PAULO AND BRASILIA, HAS ALSO PICKED UP THE NEWS. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO COMMENTATOR, CARLOS CHAGAS, WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO REPORT THAT NATEL HAD BEEN SELECTED. IN A MARCH 8 COLUMN, APPARENTLY THE RESULT OF A BACKGROUND INTERVIEW WITH PAULO EGYDIO, CHAGAS STATED THAT EGYDIO WAS GUARANTEED BY FIGUEIREDO THAT HE WOULD STILL COORDINATE THE SELECTION PROCESS IN THE SENSE OF REUNITING THE ARENA PARTY, AND ANNOUNCING HIS SUCCESSOR AT THE END OF THE PROCESS. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS THAT PAULO EGYDIO WAS PROMISED SOME ROLE IN THE FIGUEIREDO ADMINISTRATION. CHAGAS AND OTHER COLUMNISTS HAVE REPORTED FIGUEIREDO'S PREOCCUPATION WITH ARENA WINNING THE NOVEMBER 15 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, AND FOR THIS REASON, PLACING GREAT EMPHASIS ON UNITING THE VARIOUS PARTY FACTIONS. LAUDO NATEL IS REPORTEDLY ALREADY CONSULTING POLITICIANS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO COMPETED WITH HIM FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP, FOR THE SELECTION OF A STATE SECRETARIAT THAT WOULD OVERCOME DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PARTY AND ENSURE MAXIMUM EFFORT IN THE NOVEMBER 15 ELECTIONS.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE SPECULATIONS BY SAO PAULO POLITICIANS THAT FIGUEIREDO WAITED TO ACT ON SAO PAULO UNTIL GEISEL, WITH HIS KNOWN AVERSION TO LAUDO NATEL, WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY, IT APPEARS THAT FIGUEIREDO WAS GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD TO RESOLVE A PROBLEM IN SAO PAULO THAT WAS ALREADY BEGINING TO HAVE NEGATIVE REFLECTIONS ON THE GUBERNATORIAL RACE IN OTHER STATES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAO PA 00724 02 OF 02 111152Z

CHAPIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SAOPA00724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780109-0851
Format: TEL
From: SAO PAULO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780382/aaaacrhl.tel
Line Count: 170
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe9cacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 SAO PAULO 358
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3371877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAUDO NATEL APPARENTLY CHOSEN GOVERNOR OF SAO PAULO
TAGS: PINT, BR, (FIGUEIREDO, JOAO BAPTISTA DE O), (NATEL, LAUDO)
To: STATE BRASILIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe9cacc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014